

## Ben Cook

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**From:** Ashley Gulker <ashleygulker@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:18 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: HB 5040

Dear House Education Committee and HB 5040 Sponsors,

I am writing to you as a voting Michigan resident and current social work graduate student at Michigan State University who strongly opposes HB 5040 (Consciousnesses Objector Legislation). I am disappointed that this bill has moved to the house floor. The proposed legislation allows higher education students to discriminate on the basis of moral and religious beliefs, which marginalizes Michigan's most vulnerable populations. This is an overt violation of the National Association of Social Worker's Code of Ethics and jeopardizes the accreditation of all social work programs in the state. If this legislation passes, Michigan's universities may not be able to meet nationally established accreditation standards in professional fields that include social work, psychology, counseling, and psychiatry. This bill has detrimental consequences for the future of human services in the state and Michigan students seeking employment in these fields may be forced to go to colleges and universities in other states.

For the sake of higher education, equality and the vulnerable populations who will inevitably be impacted by this legislation, I urge you NOT to pass this bill.

Thank you,

Ashley Gulker  
Michigan State University  
MSW Candidate

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